

ParKids Magazine
Spring/Summer
2002



ParKids Learn About Fire

A visit to the Guadalupe Administration Site

By Shyra Reed

The Guadalupe Administration Site is where we went today. We learned how to fly a helicopter. We also learned all about how they start prescribed fires. We also went to a fire camp. We ate there and saw their food. We saw their showers, their supply units, their medical units, and their restaurant tents. The truck that is a huge refrigerator keeps all their food.

Charred trees and stumps

By Bianca Morales

Mr. Ernie Garcia took us to Lincoln National Forest to show us the prescribed burning to protect the Urban Wild-land Interface (uwi) and to make more space for the humans to hike and animals to walk through the woods. The way you can tell the difference between a prescribed burn and a wildfire is that in a prescribed burn the lower limbs are removed from a tree and the trees are spaced out several feet apart.





Fight Fire with Fire

By Jamin Daly

Most people think they know what it means to fight fire with fire, but do they really know? To fight fire with fire means to start a small fire to burn up all the fuel so when the big fire gets there there is nothing to burn so the fire goes out. Also if there are two fires they tend to be drawn towards each other so they go out faster.

Fire Fire Fire

By Jeremy Ann Morgan

Today we met with Mr. Baca at the Guadalupe Administration Site. He told us about why they make fires and how it helps the environment. He also told us what starts preventive fires. You always need this stuff around this triangle to make a fire (oxygen, fuel, and heat). We also learned about FIO (fire information officer). They also have tools in their buggies to move dirty cut grass and cut limbs.



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Photography by Janet Roberson

ParKids Games and Fun

Make your own stalactites and stalagmites

By Sara Walker

You will need:

- A piece of thick yarn
- A saucer and teaspoon
- Two jam jars
- Baking soda

1. Fill the jam jar with warm water. Dissolve as much baking soda as you can in each, a little at a time. Arrange the jars side by side with the saucer in between.
2. Arrange the yarn so that each end is hanging over the saucer.
3. Put a small mound (one teaspoon) of baking soda on the saucer and leave the jars for several days. The water and baking soda solution in the jars will drip onto the crystal saucer, forming a column.

From book: Caves 1990 by Two-Can Publishing.

***Answers to both quizzes are
found on page 15.***

Quiz yourself

By Erin Wittman



1. What kind of bats live in NM? _ _ _ _ _ Q
2. What is one of the main factors of fires? _ _ _ Q _ _ _
3. What is the state grass? _ _ _ _ _ Q _ _ _ _ _
4. What are the 3 elements of fire? _ _ _ Q, _ _ _ _ _ , and heat
5. True or false, there is such a thing as a pinball game cactus? _ Q _ _ _
6. What is the large, feline mammal of the desert? Q _ _ _ _ _
7. True or false, some owls live in cacti? Q _ _ _
8. What is one insect found in a cave? _ _ _ _ _ Q _ _ _ _ _
9. What is the genus name of the teddy bear cactus that appears soft and furry? _ _ _ _ Q _ _
10. Cave swallows live in what part of the cave? _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ Q

Take letters from circles and arrange to answer this riddle.

I am found in caverns. I hang from the ceiling and I take millions of years to form. What am I?

_ _ _ _ _

Forest Words Unscramble Game

By Stuart Stinson

gfaingn
sofret
erab
ayefts
lapiedh
shainawc



About the History of Washington Ranch

By Shyra Reed

The 28th and 29th of June we went to Washington Ranch. We learned about the history of Washington Ranch. One of the people of Washington Ranch is Charles Slaughter. He stole cattle for women and children. He traded the women and children for horses. The next person who was in the history is Bill Washington. He lived almost a mile away from his wife. He actually slept on the top of the water source. He died a few months after he left his family. The last person in the history is Mr. Miller. Mr. Miller was a show off. He liked to party. He built a big building in the middle of the old El Paso Highway. It was a hotel of three rooms. There is a greenhouse in the Hotel. There is a banana tree. It has a field with Mr. Miller's gravestone with him and his wife. That is the history of Washington Ranch.

The History of Washington Ranch

By Brock Bigej

Today we went to Washington Ranch. Van talked to us about the history of Washington Ranch. He told us that the El Paso road once ran through Washington Ranch in 1920. Van also told us that Bill Washington was the first person to dam up the Black River. Mr. Slaughter used Washington Ranch as a hideout. Mr. Slaughter stole cattle from Texas and traded the cattle with the Indians. Then Van told us that Bill Washington hid millions of dollars in gold in a cave but nobody has ever found the gold. Van also said that the estate is worth three million dollars. Van gave us some really cool information on Washington Ranch history.



ParKids Learn About Archeology

By Kevin Barnhart

A guy named Chris Adams was telling us about a fight that happened in Last Chance Canyon. He told us about a person named Mark Rosacher who was the first person to find an artifact there at Last Chance Canyon. Some people went out to Last Chance Canyon and studied the ground with metal detectors. They found a lot of cartridges and arrowheads. I think that it's really cool that there was a war here.

By Ralph Espinosa

We were at Last Chance Canyon where the Americans fought the Mescalero Apache. A man named Mark Rosacher found a cartridge and didn't know what it was so he called an archeologist named Chris Adams. Chris lives in Alamogordo. He came and investigated and found more cartridges, arrowheads, beads, silver and copper coins, and tinklers.

By Amy Corman

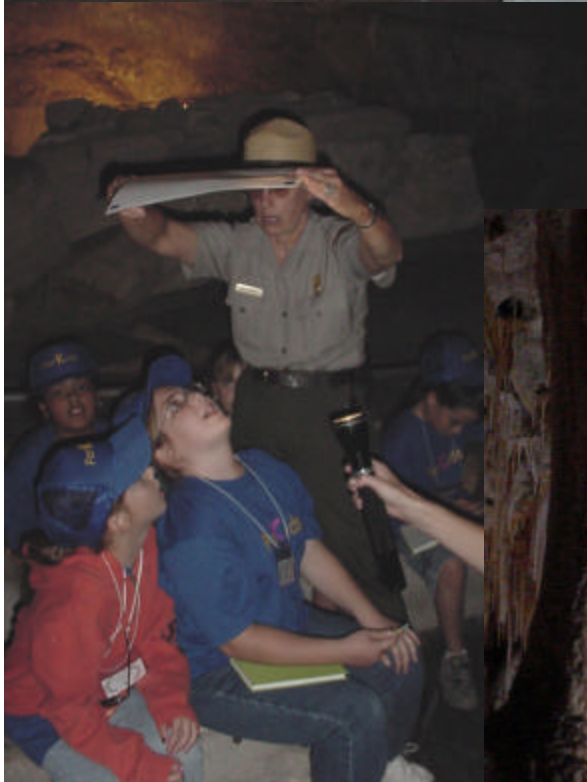
ParKids went to Last Chance Canyon yesterday. Chris told us that there was a battle there in November 18, 1869. The women even fought. One of the women killed one of the chiefs because he killed her husband. Chris also said they didn't have money like we do now. Money was shiny stuff and stuff that stuck out.

Last Chance Canyon

By Stuart Stinson

Chris Adams passed around artifacts from an 1869 Indian War involving the Apaches and Americans at Last Chance Canyon. He told us the story of that war, and he read us a letter from that war. He explained the scenery of the fights and battles. He showed us some tools that he uses in his job. The Apaches have been stealing mostly everything for hundreds of years. They lived on the Rio Grande. The rain would wash away the Apache wickiups. The Indians would hide in their homes. The women and children fought with the men. One man from Cushing's Army got 15 days worth of food. The army didn't have much to follow the Apaches for. Cushing found a river that the Apaches used. Chris was really fun. He also explained his job to us.





ParKids Learn About Carlsbad Caverns National Park

Caves

By Mallorie Salazar

The caves are silent
Stalagmites are beautiful
Water is dripping
Caves and Caverns

By Stuart Stinson

The spikes on the top are called stalactites. The ones on the bottom are stalagmites. A way to remember them is that stalactites hang tight and stalagmites stand tall and mighty. The stalactites are hollow because they have a formation called soda straws inside them. Stalagmites are solid. When a stalactite and stalagmite touch the formation is called a column. Those stalactites and stalagmites will take over 100,000 years to grow.



By Britta Bigej

The one in the back is Stacey Haynie speaking to the ParKids on June 18 at Carlsbad Caverns National Park. She told us that the caverns were made from limestone rock. She also told us that the icicle-looking things that hang and grow from the top of the cave are called stalactites because they hang on tight. The ones that grow up from the bottom are called stalagmites because they grow strong and mighty. Stalactites and stalagmites grow by dripping water. When it rains some of the water drips down into the cave and makes stalactites and stalagmites. It takes about a half a year to a year and a half for water to drip down into the cave. Stalagmites are solid and stalactites are hollow. When they touch each other they are called a column. They look like big, tall pillars. The Caverns are really neat.





ParKids Learn About Bats

Bats

By Kaitlin Eastman, age 9

At four or five weeks of age a baby bat, a pup, is ready to fly. It lets go of the ceiling and has 90 feet of airspace between ceiling and ground to master flying on the first try. If the pup falls to the ground it dies and will soon be devoured by predators. Fortunately, around 90 percent do succeed and begin to join the nightly hunts. The bat flights in the late summertime, when the pups start flying, are especially dense, making it a good time to view them.

DDT and bats

By Tessa Burton

Bats go to different places and pick up DDT. When they go back home they spread the DDT to other bats. Because of that people thought all bats had DDT but they were wrong. In the older days, 4,000 people were using DDT in one state. In the older days, DDT cost 6 cents a pound. A lot of people used DDT because it was so cheap and easy to get ahold of. But now you have to have permission from the president to use DDT. If a farmer got caught using DDT he or she will lose everything they had.

The bats drinking

By Matthew Fournier

“I’m thirsty,” screeched Echo.

“Me too,” replied Buggy.

They both thought at the same time—Devil Springs. Their sounds echoed to Devil Springs. But, when they got there the rock they were standing on gave way and they drowned. Today, the fossils still remain. That’s why you should never drink cave water.

Bats

by Serita Robinson

Bats

Flying Mammals

Eat Many Insects

Sleep During the Day

Freetail

By Maricruz Manriquez



In this picture Vivian is teaching us about bats. We are sitting down at the Carlsbad Caverns. We got to see historic graffiti. It was fun learning about those things. We got to see a dead bat. We wrote about different kinds of bats. I had a lot of fun learning about bats.



***ParKids Learn About
Rattlesnake Springs***

Fish

By Esther Ruiz

Fish

Very Small

Swims Very Fast

It Loves To Swim

Catfish

Lizard

By Dylan Lynn

Lizard

Fast Runner

Darts across land

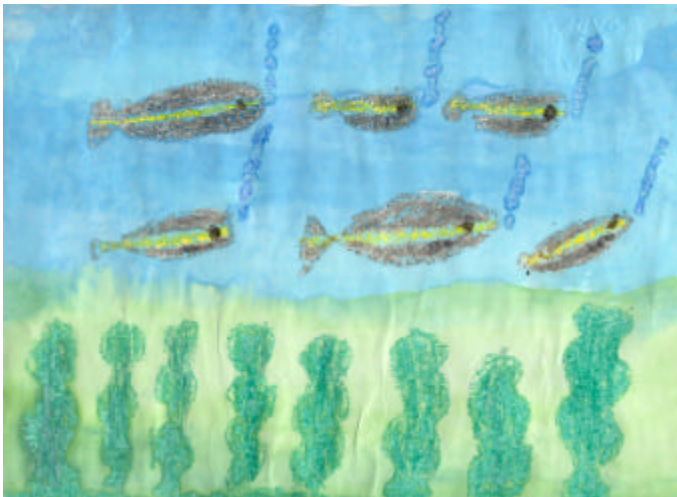
Camouflages well in nature

Reptile

Many lined Skink

By Kristen Daly

The many-lined skink is a slender lizard that has a wide stripe running down its back, along with dark and light stripes--alternating--that run along the entire length from the head to the tip of the tail. Younger specimens have a blue tail, while adults have a brown one. This skink is active by day and feeds on insects.



My Day at Rattlesnake Springs

By James Darr

My group is part of a big group called ParKids. We, Josh Fisher, Josh Dominguez, Joey Orona, and myself were looking for a turtle called the Western River Cooter. It has a design on the bottom of its shell.





ParKids Learn About Trail Maintenance

By Jamie Lucas

In this picture the ParKids are cleaning up the trail. It was dedicated to us and is now called the ParKids trail. We had to have protection because we were holding heavy tools. It felt really hot but it was worth it.

By Emily Peterson

This is a picture of Ernie Garcia showing me to use a McLeod properly. We were at Sitting Bull Falls maintaining trails. McLeods are tools for clearing away debris. We cleared rocks off trail 68E. About halfway through the project, it rained on us.

By Sara Walker

Yesterday, we had to clean trails at Sitting Bull Falls. It was very hot and we had to have a lot of water breaks. Ernie Garcia was the park ranger showing us how to clean off rocks and grass with tools. The tools were called McLeods. They are big heavy rake-looking things. On one side are the claws and the other side was a sharp straight piece of metal to chop grass. Ernie also taught us some terms that trail workers use. These words include: hold, moving, bump up, and bump back. Hold means to stop. Moving means to go. Bump up means to move up a little. Bump back means to move back a little. It was hot and tiring.



ParKids Learn About Desert Adaptations

Lechuguilla plant

By Serita Robinson

The lechuguilla lives in the Chihuahuan Desert. It can grow to be about 16 inches high and 2 feet wide. Its leaves are green to gray with a long sharp spine at the end. It also has downward spines along the side of it. It produces flowers that turn into fruit; they're yellow. The flowers are in a spine-like cluster. It also has tiny, flat, black, shiny seeds. After many years of storing water the lechuguilla makes a stalk then it dies after it has produced its fruit. The Mescalero Apaches used the lechuguillas for food and fiber. Uncooked lechuguilla leaves were poisonous, so the Mescalero used the juice of the lechuguilla leaves to make poisonous arrowheads.

by Rycke Underwood

We had water bottles and we were spraying water on some algae. The water changed the algae different colors. The algae changed to red, blue, or orange.



Answers to page 5 Forest Words Scramble
flagging
forest
bear
safety
helipad
chainsaw

Answers to Quiz Yourself page 5

1. Mexican freetail bats
2. Weather
3. Blue Grama Grass
4. Fuel, oxygen
5. False
6. Cougar
7. True
8. Cave Cricket
9. Opuntia
10. Twilight Zone

STALACTITE

